sportsmen of other countries and steps taken by the Union Government to improve their performance and

(b) whether the Government are considering to ban participation of sportspersons at international level till they achieve qualifying international standards?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S.R. BOMMAI) : (a) The main reasons for Indian sportsmen not achieving expected levels in comparison with other countries may be summarised as follows

(i) Lack of long term commitment for sports.

(ii) Inadequate investment in sports infrastructure and sports promotion activities

Steps taken to improve their performance include emphasis on sports in educational institutions as well as in rural areas; prioritization of disciplines; stress on the development of juniors/Sub-juniors; preparation of Long term development plans in consultation with National Federations; involvement of the Corporate sector; development of sports infrastructure; scientific back up to sportspersons etc.

(b) No, Sir.

[Translation]

Uniformity in Secondary Education

*148. SHRI VIJAY ANNAJI MUDE : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to bring uniformity in the secondary education all over the country and to increase the salary of Secondary School teachers;

(b) if so, the steps being taken in this regard; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S.R. BOMMAI) : (a) to (c). The National Policy on Education (NPE), 1986 as adopted by the Parliament envisages a common educational structure which has resulted in acceptance of 10+2+3 structure all over the country. The NPE, 1986 visualizes the National System of Education based on a National Curricular Framework containing a common core alongwith other components that are flexible.

Based on the National Curricular Framework and the syllabi and textbooks brought out by the NCERT, the States and UTs have also undertaken measures of curriculam revision and development of new textbooks for different stages of school education for their introduction into the school system in a phased manner.

Maintenance of a broad commonality of standards in all the schools of the country has been sought to be achieved by the following ways :

(i) Making available to all the schools, a broadly uniform pattern of syllabi/textbooks designed on the basis of National Curricular Framework for elementary and secondary education brought out by the NCERT.

(ii) Requiring all the schools sending their students for Board Examinations to be affiliated to the concerned State Board, the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) or the Council for the Indian School Certificate Examinations (CISCE), as the case may be and thereby to follow the syllabi/ textbooks prescribed by the respective Board designed on the basis of the National Curricular Framework.

(iii) Improving the physical facilities and other educational inputs in schools through a number of Centrally Sponsored Scheme and Programmes.

The salary of school teachers is determined separately by each State and decided on the basis of academic qualifications, training and experience and with the recommendations made by State Pay Commission from time to time. The Government of India prescribes the pay scales for the school teachers employed under the UT Administrations. However, in respect of teachers of other States, the salaries are revised from time to time by their own Pay Commissions.

[English]

UNICEF Report

*149. SHRI BIJOY HANDIQUE : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that 39 percent girls and 25 percent boys in India do not attend school as reported by UNICEF in its report regarding 'Progress of the Nations';

(b) if so, whether the Government agree with the causes enlisted in the report accounting for this gender gap; and

(c) if so, the details of the suggestions made in the report and action taken/proposed to be taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S.R. BOMMAI) : (a) Government is aware that UNICEF's report titled "The Progress of Nations, 1996" mentions that 39% girls and 25% boys of primary school age in India are out of school.

(b) The causes enumerated in the report for this gender gap are broadly in line with the assessment of

the Goverment of India in this regard. However, there are regional variations in the factors responsible for girls remaining out of school.

(c) The report briefly mentions some of the approaches being tried out to improve enrolment and retention of girls in schools in a few developing countries. On similar lines, Government of India and State Governments have taken several measures to increase enrolment and retention of girls in primary schools. These include establishment of separate schools for girls; provision of attendance scholarships; free textbooks and uniforms; exemption from tuition fee; appointment of more women teachers; and provision of separate toilets for girls. Under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Non-Formal Education, 90% Central assistance is provided to girls' centres. The proportion of girls centres has been raised from 25% to 40% in the Eighth Plan. The introduction of the Mid-day Meals Programme is also expected to have a positive effect on enrolment and retention of girls in primary schools.

Investment in Major Ports/N.Hs.

*150. SHRI NARAYAN ATHAWALAY : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) the details of immediate investment requirement for development of major ports and National/Express/State Highways, Statewise and investment committed for the current year; and

(b) the major bottlenecks in development of surface transport and steps taken/proposed to sortout these problems including land acquisition for out of court settlement?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN) : (a) The requirements for the development of Major Ports and for removal of the deficiencies on the National Highways are estimated at Rs. 8553 crores and Rs. 75,000 crores respectively. For the current year 1996-97, an amount of Rs. 576.6 crores for Ports and Rs. 959.6 crores for National Highways have been allocated in the Annual Plan.

(b) Inadequate resources and delays in acquisition of land and environmental clearance are the major bottlenecks in the development of surface transport. The Government is taking necessary steps to address these issues.

Irrigation Projects in Orissa

*151. SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that a number of ongoing irrigation projects started over a decade ago in Orissa could not be completed so far due to lack of funds;

(b) if so, the facts thereof and the steps in which such projects stand at present; and

(c) the steps taken to expedite those projects without further loss of time and cost overrun?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA) : (a) Yes, Sir. Lack of funds is one of the major constraint responsible for delay in completion of projects.

(b) The facts and the stage of the ongoing irrigation projects in Orissa are as under :-

(Rs. in crores/Thousand Hectares)

S.No.	Name of Project	Started in Plan	Latest estimated cost	Expdr. to end of March, 96	Ultimate potential	Potential likely to be created to end of March, 96
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Major						
1.	Rengali					
	(a) Dam (Irr. Share)	IV	40.77	41.48	-	-
	(b) Irrigation***	V	2199.52	216.73	423.60	0.00
2.	Upper Kolab**					
	(a) Dam	V	48.81	51.21	-	-
	(b) Irrigation	V	237.00	162.26	88.70	68.08
3.	Upper Indravati**					
	(a) Dam (Irr. Share)	AP78-80	176.16	135.34	-	-
	(b) Irrigation	AP78-80	539.51	154.50	218.60	35.59